The Crystal Springs Players Announce

Auditions for

THE BEST MAN

A Play by Gore Vidal
Directed by Paul Wells

Saturday, January 28th @ 1-4pm and Sunday, January 29th @ 6pm

Callbacks: Sunday, January 29th @ 7pm

Crystal Springs UMC, 2145 Bunker Hill Drive, San Mateo

Performances will be May 6th (Press Preview) 11, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 19, 2012
Rehearsals start 2/12/12 ~ *Most* rehearsals will be Sunday, Monday & Thursday evenings, Sunday afternoons if needed.
Dress Rehearsal Period (4/2 – 5/10) is mandatory for all actors for the nights/Sunday afternoons scheduled.

Please bring calendar/list of potential conflicts to the audition (availability will affect casting, especially for larger roles). No need to prepare a monologue for your audition; actors will read from the script. Resume/headshot appreciated, but not necessary.

Description of the Play

William Russell, the ex-Secretary of State, is a wit and scholar with high liberal principles, beloved of the eggheads and suspected by practical politicians. Joseph Cantwell is a ruthless and hard-driving young man, a dirty fighter who will let no scruples stand in the way of his ambitions. And Arthur Hockstader is an ex-President, who loves politics for their own sake, admires a rough-and-tumble battler more than a chivalrous one, and is determined to have the final say in the selection of his party's candidate. Cantwell has got hold of papers indicating that his rival once suffered from a mental crackup, which he is all set to use. Then his scrupulous antagonist comes across some incriminating evidence about Cantwell, which he is loath to produce. The scruples don't appeal to the ex-President, who enjoys seeing the boys fight. All of this provides the framework for a vivid and interesting play in which Mr. Vidal contrasts the minds, emotions and fighting spirits of the two candidates.

Cast of Characters

Approximate ages (in parenthesis) refer to the character, not necessarily the actor

William Russell: (male, 40-60) Secretary of State, presidential candidate

Alice Russell: (female, 35-55) wife of William Russell

Dick Jensen: (male, 35-55) Russell's campaign manager

Joseph Cantwell: (male, 40-60) Senator, presidential candidate

Mabel Cantwell: (female, 25-55) wife of Joseph Cantwell

Don Blades: (male, 30-50) Cantwell's campaign manager

President Arthur Hockstader: (male, 65 or over) Ex-President of the United States

Mrs. Sue Ellen Gamadge: (female, 35-55) Powerful and influential "grande dame" of the party

Senator Clyde Carlin: (male, 40-60) a senior senator of the party

Dr. Artinian: (male, 40-60) Russell's psychiatrist

Sheldon Marcus: (male, 40-60) "old friend" of Joseph Cantwell

Ensemble (reporters, delegates, hotel staff, etc.): (males/females, 20s-50s, playing multiple roles)

For more information or if you are unable to make one of the scheduled auditions, please contact Paul Wells at (650) 438-5830 or paulwells69@yahoo.com.